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To: 'microsoft.atr(a)usdoj.gov'
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Subject: Microsoft settlement

Let me explain my position before my assessment of the settlement.

I am a professional software developer and manager, who has worked with Microsoft tools, products, and their business practices since the early 1980's.

I have at times worked very closely with their developer support and client support organizations.

I have hired Microsoft consultants to aid my development teams.

I am currently working with Microsoft tools, platforms and services, and I fully expect to continue some form of business relationship in the future.

I admit that I have a love/hate relationship with Microsoft.

I have first hand experience of Microsoft business practices, good and bad.

example: In the early 1990's, my software development team was having a problem using a new 'standard' feature in the latest version of MS windows (at that time). My team spent 2-3 weeks working with Microsoft and paying support fees to get aid to resolve the problem. Microsoft kept using 'But, its works correctly in the latest MS-Office, doesn't it?'. Yes it did.

Another week of effort buy one of my engineers discovered that MS-office was NOT using the functionality provided by the OS, it was using functionality built directly within MS-Office. Another call to MS effectively got the response of: 'Oh well, you got us. It doesn't really work for you, you can't make it work. That's why the Ms-Office engineers went to OS engineers, got the basic functionality and made it work, just for Office. Too Bad. So, what are you going to do about it?'

Since that day, I have always reviewed Microsoft with a cautious perspective. Since that day, Microsoft has gotten even worse about lying, predatory and illegal business practices. Business practices that are so illegal and wide scope, that the Justice Department felt it necessary to TWICE take Microsoft to federal court for their conduct. Twice, the DOJ has proven their case. Microsoft has been proven to be a monopoly that has illegally used their position to hurt competitors and illegally entrench their position. Twice, the DOJ has totally caved-in at the penalty process.

The proposed solutions are totally inadequate to stop Microsoft from further illegal business practices. Actually, the proposed penalties are rewarding Microsoft for their prior illegal behavior, and actually allows them to continue those illegal behaviors into the future.

Please reconsider the proposed penalties. By a decision of the Supreme Court, Microsoft is a monopoly that has illegally hurt competitors and consumers.

Please make me believe that the DOJ represents the interests of all people in a balanced fashion, not just the interests of the wealthy and powerful individuals and corporations. The choice is yours.

I, as a consumer actually fear Microsoft. The last two years gave me hope. Now, I have little hope left.

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